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WARNING NOTICE
SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

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SECRET

DIST 4 OCTOBER 1973

COUNTRY SYRIA/ISRAEL

DOI 22 SEPTEMBER 1973

SUBJECT SYRIAN MILITARY MOVEMENTS TOWARD SYRIAN-ISRAELI CEASE-FIRE LINE

ACQ 32 SEPTEMBER 1973

SOURCE

1. ON 22 SEPTEMBER 1973, LARGER NUMBERS OF SYRIAN ARMORED AND ARTILLERY UNITS WERE OBSERVED MOVING IN THE DIRECTION OF THE ISRAELI-SYRIAN CEASE-FIRE LINE. THE SYRIA ARMOR WAS POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED AS SOVIET T-62 TANKS. COMMENT: THE SOURCE DID NOT STATE WHO "POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED" THE TANKS.) RESIDENTS OF THE NORTHERN CITIES OF HOMS AND ALEPPO SAID THAT DURING THE

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PRECEDING WEEK SYRIAN MILITARY UNITS WERE MOVING FROM THE NORTHWESTERN SECTOR OF SYRIA TOWARD THE SOUTH.

2. THE SYRIAN PUBLIC GENERALLY BELIEVES THAT THE SYRIAN ARMY MAY BE GETTING READY TO LAUNCH SOME SORT OF AN ATTACK AGAINST ISRAELI POSITIONS IN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS IN REPRISAL FOR THE LOSS OF 13 SYRIAN AIRCRAFT IN THE EARLY SEPTEMBER AIR BATTLE. THE PUBLIC, HOWEVER, IS GENERALLY APATHETIC ABOUT ANY MILITARY EXCURSIONS. THE PEOPLE ARE MORE CONCERNED WITH OBTAINING THE NECESSITIES OF LIFE, PARTICULARLY FOOD, WHICH REMAINS SCARCE AND EXPENSIVE IN SYRIAN MARKETS.

3. DIA COMMENT: THE ABOVE REPORT REINFORCES PREVIOUS REPORTING OF SYRIAN MILITARY DEPLOYMENTS TOWARD THE GOLAN HEIGHTS AREA.

4. DISSEM: SENT TO USCINCEUR, CINCUSNAVEUR, USAFE, USAREUR, COMSIXTHFLT.

REPORT CLASS S E C R E T /WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

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IMMEDIATE

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NSC/S
EO 13526 3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs

Classified by Standard Department of Automatic Communications

(2) Impossible to Determine Date

EO 13526
3.3(b)(6)>25Yrs

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CITE

DIST 1 OCTOBER 1973

COUNTRY SYRIA/ISRAEL/ARAB STATES

DOI 1 OCTOBER 1973

SUBJECT THAT SYRIAN MILITARY PREPARATIONS IN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS AREA ARE DEFENSIVE IN NATURE

ACQ

SOURCE

COMMENT:

1. REPORTED SYRIAN PREPARATIONS FOR AN APPARENTLY OFFENSIVE ACTION AGAINST THE ISRAELI-OCCUPIED GOLAN HEIGHTS.)

2. AS OF 1 OCTOBER 1973, THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE [redacted] WERE OF THE OPINION THAT CURRENT SYRIAN MILITARY ACTIVITIES, WHICH THEY BELIEVE ARE OCCURRING AS REPORTED, ARE ACTUALLY DEFENSIVE IN NATURE IN SPITE OF THE ORIGINAL OFFENSIVE NATURE OF THE SYRIAN OPERATIONS PLAN.

3. [redacted] REASONING IS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS

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BY SYRIAN OFFICIALS:

A. ASAD TOLD THAT HE IS "NOT CERTAIN WHAT ISRAEL IS UP TO, BUT IT APPEARS THEY ARE GOING TO STRIKE US IF THEY CAN." LATER, DURING A DISCUSSION OF THE NEED FOR THE ARABS TO AVOID ADVENTURISM, ASAD COMMENTED "WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I CARE LESS FOR DAMASCUS THAN YOU CARE ?"

B. WHEN THE SYRIAN DIRECTOR OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, HIKMAT S H I H A B I, SHIHABI CONSISTENTLY EXPRESSED FEARS OF AN ISRAELI INCURSION INTO SYRIA AND OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH WOULD CONFRONT SYRIA IF SUCH AN ACTION WERE TO TAKE PLACE.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE SYRIAN DEPLOYMENT AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IS UNDOUBTEDLY TRUE, THE SYRIANS HAVE GIVEN THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY ARE "SCARED STIFF" OF AN ISRAELI ATTACK. THIS ATTITUDE HAS BEEN REINFORCED BY SUCH ACTIONS AS THE RECENT AIR BATTLE IN WHICH THE SYRIANS LOST HEAVILY TO THE ISRAELIS.

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[redacted]

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(classification) (dissem. controls)

[redacted]

5. [redacted] DISSEM: EXPASSE AT [redacted] (FOR AMBASSADOR AND DCHARGE ONLY) (b)(1) (b)(3)

SENT TO: [redacted] USIA, USUN/SCUR, (b)(3)

CINCUNAVEUR, USAFE, USAFSOE, COMSIXTHFLT.

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(classification) (dissem. controls)

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